



## THE FRESNO MORNING REPUBLICAN.

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A FAIR PROPOSITION.

The proposition of the directors of the

San Joaquin Valley Railroad to the

people of Fresno is a fair one, view it

from any standpoint which you may. Fresno

county could not do less for Fresno

properly express the appreciation of the people

for the advantages which the new road

will bring, and, owing to the period of

depression through which all classes of

industry have been passing, it could

hardly do more.

The right of way through the county

and a liberal donation of land in this

city for depot and terminal privileges, is

a concession of large value to any rail-

road, but the benefits to be derived by

the people fully warrant it. The propo-

sition made by the directors is a mutu-

ally satisfactory one, and it only re-

mains for the people of Fresno county

to comply with the reasonable request

with all possible expedition.

Aside from the benefits to the whole

county from lower rates of transportation,

which are essential, and a more satis-

factory service, which invariably ac-

companies with competition, secondary ad-

vantages will accrue to this city which

are well worth consideration. The

directors propose to make Fresno divi-

sion headquarters, and locate shops here,

which will give employment to a con-

siderable number of men. It is for this

reason that they desire a large tract of

land for terminal privileges. It is also

probable that the line will be built

southward from Fresno to some point

between here and Bakersfield, all of

which will be to the advantage of this

city.

Unquestionably strenuous efforts will

be necessary to raise the money which

will be required to secure these privi-

leges, but important objects are not to be

attained without effort. Fresno has

been for years past calling upon the

capitalists of San Francisco to come to the

relief of the valley with a competing

road, and now that they have responded

Fresno must do her part, notwithstanding

that the times have made it more

difficult of performance. The fact

that a reasonable request has been

submitted should make all the more

anxious to respond promptly.

The securing of fifty or fifty acres of

land immediately adjoining the city, in

a desirable location for the new road, is

not altogether an easy undertaking, but

the present low values of suburban

property is a point in favor of its accom-

plishment. Real estate holders who

land may be desired will be very likely

to make material concessions in a sale

for this purpose. An exorbitant rate

could not be obtained by anyone who

might be inclined to seek it, for the law

of eminent domain can be applied and

the actual value of the land ascertained

in that way. Public spirit is, however,

expected to make such proceeding un-

necessary in any case.

Unanimity of action in the interests

of the community as a whole will bring

a speedy solution of the matter with

which the people of Fresno are now

called upon to deal.

THE CONTRACT-LABOR LAW

DEFIED.

The San Francisco Bulletin makes an

announcement which is of the utmost

interest to every Californian. It says:

The United States contract labor law

are being violated every two or three

weeks by the Japanese. The country is

being flooded with cheap Japanese

labor, the little brown men are pouring

in upon us in greater numbers than did

the Chinese before the registration act

was passed by congress, and the state

of California is threatened with an ep-

idemic of cheap labor and hard times in

farming and commercial circles. It is

time to sound the warning and to ex-

pose the wage and demand for which

the state has provided. The contract

labor law is being defied, and the

state is being flooded with cheap labor

who agree to receive per capita \$40

and 50 cents per day for twelve or fourteen

hours' work.

The Bulletin then enters into specu-

lations. It says that the brown men

being imported for farmers of the San

Joaquin, Napa, Livermore and San Ga-

briel valleys, that their importation con-

stitute a regular business and that every

steamer from the Orient brings its quota of them.

If these charges are true—and we sup-

pose that the Bulletin knows whereof it

speaks—the state of affairs depicted is a

serious one for California. We have an

overabundance of the little brown men

at the present time. While men who

desire work cannot obtain it, while Mon-

golianes working at lower wages than

civilized beings can afford to take are

unemployed. We support many men in

jails or poorhouses who would work if

they were permitted. And still the im-

portation of these nickel-and-dime liv-

ers goes on.

Under such circumstances, the men

who engage in the business of import-

ation make a greater crime against the

commonwealth than the law recognizes.

Nevertheless we are not left entirely

defenseless. The contract-labor law is

violated, and the force of public opinion

should compel its enforcement. If

"United States emigration officers have

been negligent of duty" let that same

public opinion compel them to do it, or

if (that falls, let it make its voice heard

even by the powers that appoint.

The Chinese has brought to us his

fifth, his opinion and his many voices. If

the Japanese brings nothing else he

brings an underbidding capacity with

which our laborers cannot contend, nor

would we have them attempt to do so.

Here is a chance for the press to ex-

ercise its influence in a right direction. It

should do what it can to the end that

the contract-labor law may be rigidly

enforced.

## SPEAKING OF THE TULARA REGISTER'S

comments on crow in its relation to the

advocacy of silver coinage by Republi-

can newspapers, the Visalia Times re-

marks:

The San Francisco Chronicle and Cali-

fornia Herald-Examiner, and the Fresno Her-

ald, will be entitled to front seats at the

situation given up correctly.

And we will at least have the satisfac-

tion of knowing that there is good com-

pany at the banquet. By the way, what

sort of meat are those Democratic jour-

nals which are supporting Cleveland's

single standard policy going to feed

upon when the national Democratic

convention declares for free coinage?

The New Woman proposes to have

the Bible revised so that its statements

in regard to her sex will be more com-

plementary in their nature. The ground

upon which she is demanding certain

changes in the holy writ is that man,

selfish and crafty, has succeeded in

twisting the word of God into its present

attitude regarding woman, and she

proposes now to untwist it. Divine

revelation will not be sought in making

the desired corrections. The New Woman

knows what she wants without asking

anybody.

The Sacramento Record-Union says

that San Francisco is on the wrong side

of the bay. Still, as it is there, and is

likely to stay there, and is our metropo-

litan, it seems as if it would be just as

well not to be awake nights grieving over

the matter, but just take hold and do what

we of the interior may to make the

metropolitan city of which we may all

be proud. The people in a city con-

tain more than some unpleasant features

of location, anyway. New York was built

on an island, and Chicago in a mud-

puddle.

The permanent survey of the Valley

road is very nearly completed from

Stockton to the Stanislaus river, and

within a day or two everything will be

ready for the work of grading. This

"opera-bouffe" enterprise (as it was

termed by an organ of the opposition) is

progressing most favorably, and railroad

competition will soon be established in

the San Joaquin valley.

Cran Republicans have demanded

"the immediate renunciation of silver

at the rate of 10 to 1 with gold." If

we have to eat crow, brethren, there is

consequence in the thought that it will

take a good many of the same birds to

go around. Apparently the desire for

crow is growing.

If there be any who yet question the

value of climate in dollars and cents, let

them compare the withered ruins of the

orchards, vineyards and gardens of the

past with the certain promise of a fruit-

ful harvest of all kinds in California.

It is an ill wind, indeed, which blows

now. The eastern frosts have been a

good market for many train-loads of

California fruit.

RANDOM REMARKS.

First Little Imp—It's pretty hot to-

day, isn't it? I notice that the thermo-

meter stands at 93° above zero in the

shade of that pile of trunks.

Second Little Imp—Yes, but it's such

a dry heat that one doesn't notice it

much. Now if the atmosphere were

moist—"etc."

Queen Victoria is said to be quite

offended because one of the British no-

bility danced a skirt dance at a recent

party. The good queen asked control

herself how she came to be so. The balance

of the world rests quite easily when the

English aristocracy is doing nothing

worse than skirt-dancing.

A Detroit man tried to rest on a fold-

ing bed, but his dream was disturbed

and he couldn't sleep well until after

the bed was undoubtedly by friends who

feared he might have a nightmare. He

probably would have been all right if he

had been accustomed in early childhood

to sleeping while standing on his head,

but, as is too often the case, his early

education had been neglected in this re-

spect. The folding bed was not racked

at all.

Helen Gould objected to the "living

pictures" to be exhibited at a society

event in New York, and the managers

of the society displayed great deference

for her feelings by substituting "tableaux

vivants" for the living pictures. What

is the difference, do you ask? None,

children, none; tableaux vivants are

living pictures exhibited in French.

Still, it is a great thing to have regard-

less of Miss Gould's feelings.

A conductor on a train to Woodland

demanded two fares of Willie Christine,

the co-ed of the school, and she refused to

pay more than one, alleging that if he

put her off the half that had paid would

be the railroad company for damages.

So he let her go, and the lady was

respectfully suggested that he should have

put off the half that didn't pay, at the

same time notifying the other half that

it need not go along unless it chose.

Such a course would have made the con-

ductor's path clear.

THE SOCKS THAT GRASP A KNOT.

All of our exchanges are putting in a

claim for the heinous factory lately

noted in the Star.—Fresno Star.

I'm putting in a claim myself; I want a factory,

like that that used to knit my socks when this

lame old fellow was new. I want a factory,

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